

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An articulated strap with links which are arranged so as to penetrate one into the other in the longitudinal direction and are connected by means of transverse hinge pins, ~~characterized in that it has~~ the articulated strap comprising: a succession of modular assemblies, ~~(1, 1', 1''..., 31, 31', 31''...)~~, each comprising two articulated parts ~~(2, 5, 6; 3, 4; 32, 33)~~ assembled to one another about a transverse center pin ~~(7, 38)~~ and equipped with means ~~(3b, 4b, 5b; 35b, 36b, 34a)~~ for receiving, on either side of this center pin ~~(7, 38)~~, two transverse connecting articulation rods ~~(8, 41)~~ which are integral, on the one hand, with one ~~(3, 4; 32)~~ of said articulated parts and issue laterally into a set-back portion of said modular assembly and are integral, on the other hand, with said two articulated parts ~~(2, 5, 6; 3, 4; 32, 33)~~ and issue laterally from two projecting portions ~~(3, 5; 35, 36)~~ of said modular assembly, in such a way that, when said two articulated parts ~~(2, 5, 6; 3, 4; 32, 33)~~ are aligned in order to receive one of said rods ~~(8; 41)~~, the other of these rods is locked angularly about said transverse center pin ~~(7; 38)~~ and is located between two lateral faces of said set-back portion of said modular assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least five longitudinal rows of adjacent links ~~(2-6)~~ which occupy alternately two longitudinal positions and are connected by means of said transverse center pin ~~(7)~~ so as to form said modular assembly ~~(1)~~ comprising three ~~(2, 4, 6)~~ and two ~~(3, 5)~~ links aligned transversely in said respective longitudinal positions, said two transversely aligned links ~~(3, 5)~~ having passing through them said transverse rod ~~(8)~~ for articulation on said adjacent modular assembly ~~(1')~~, one of said two parts of said modular assemblies ~~(1, 1', ...)~~ comprising the

links ~~(2,6)~~ of the lateral rows, and one of said two transversely aligned links ~~(3,5)~~ being integral in terms of rotation with said transverse center pin ~~(7)~~, the other of said parts comprising the link ~~(4)~~ of the central row and the other of said two transversely aligned links ~~(3,5)~~, so that putting in place said transverse articulation rod ~~(8)~~ makes the five adjacent links ~~(2-6)~~ of each modular assembly ~~(1,1',...)~~ integral in terms of rotation with said transverse center pin ~~(7)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in claim 2, wherein said transverse center pin ~~(7)~~ and said transverse articulation rods ~~(8)~~ are mounted in respective transverse guide orifices ~~(3a, 4a, 5a, 3b, 4b, 5b)~~ formed in said links ~~(3, 4, 5)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in claim 3, wherein each of said transverse articulation rods ~~(8)~~ is mounted freely slidably through said transverse orifices ~~(3b, 4'b, 5b)~~ of three links ~~(3, 4', 5)~~ of the respective inner longitudinal rows of two of said adjacent modular assemblies ~~(1, 1', ...)~~, said transverse articulation rods ~~(8)~~ being retained at their two ends by the inner lateral faces of the links ~~(2,6)~~ of the two lateral rows of one of said adjacent modular assemblies ~~(1, 1', ...)~~, once the five adjacent links ~~(2-6)~~ of this modular assembly are made integral with one another about said transverse center pin ~~(7)~~ by means of said transverse articulation rod ~~(8)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the first of said adjacent modular assemblies ~~(1, 1', ...)~~ is connected to a watch case at a connecting member ~~(9)~~ comprising two projections ~~(13, 15)~~, the respective widths of which correspond to those of said two transversely aligned links ~~(3,5)~~ of said

modular assemblies (1, 1', ...) and through which pass coaxial transverse orifices (13b, 15b), in order to receive between said projections a central link (4) of a modular assembly (1, 1', ...) retained by one of said transverse articulation rods (8) passing through the transverse orifices (13b, 15b) of said projections (13, 15) and the transverse orifice (4b) of said central link (4).

6. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the last of said articulation rods (8) is formed by a spring bar (18), the two ends of which are mounted removably in two receptacles (16, 12) of two fastening members (2*, 6*) integral with a clasp element (14).

7. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in ~~one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2, wherein the last of said transverse articulation rods (8) is formed by a rod (11) threaded at one end (11a) intended to be screwed into a corresponding thread formed in a fastening member (6*), the other end of this rod (11) being arranged in a transverse orifice of a second fastening member (2*), these two fastening members (2*, 6*) being integral with a clasp element (14).

8. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein two of said modular assemblies (1, 1') are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links (3, 5, 3', 5') turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links (3*, 5*) both being connected to each of the central links (4, 4') of said modular assemblies (1, 1') by means of two of said transverse articulation rods (8).

9. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in ~~one of claims 2 to 4 and 8~~ claim 2, wherein one of said modular elements, which is located at one of the ends of a strap portion, said end being intended to be connected to the horns of a watch case, terminates in said two transversely aligned links, and wherein an element for connection to said case comprises two parts ~~(19a, 19b)~~ articulated on one another about a transverse articulation rod ~~(20)~~, these two parts ~~(19a, 19b)~~ each comprising transverse passages ~~(23e, 24e, 25e; 28e, 27e)~~ for the passage of a bar for fastening to said horns when said passages are aligned with a common axis, said fastening bar serving, furthermore, for locking said two parts ~~(19a, 19b)~~ about said transverse articulation rod ~~(20)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The strap as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the two parts ~~(32, 33)~~ of said modular assemblies comprise two links ~~(34, 35, 36, 37)~~, an outer link ~~(34, 37)~~ and an inner link ~~(35, 36)~~, and the two inner links of the two parts ~~(32, 33)~~ of a modular assembly penetrate between the two outer links ~~(34, 37)~~ of the two parts of the adjacent modular assembly and are connected independently on one another to said transverse center pin ~~(38)~~, said transverse articulation rods ~~(41)~~ each being integral with one of the respective outer links ~~(34, 37)~~ of said modular assemblies.

11. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first of said adjacent modular assemblies is connected to a watch case at a connecting member comprising two projections, the respective widths of which correspond to those of said two transversely aligned links of said modular assemblies and through which pass coaxial transverse orifices, in order to receive between said projections a central link of a modular assembly retained by

one of said transverse articulation rods passing through the transverse orifices of said projections and the transverse orifice of said central link.

12. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 3 wherein the first of said adjacent modular assemblies is connected to a watch case at a connecting member comprising two projections, the respective widths of which correspond to those of said two transversely aligned links of said modular assemblies and through which pass coaxial transverse orifices, in order to receive between said projections a central link of a modular assembly retained by one of said transverse articulation rods passing through the transverse orifices of said projections and the transverse orifice of said central link.

13. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first of said adjacent modular assemblies is connected to a watch case at a connecting member comprising two projections, the respective widths of which correspond to those of said two transversely aligned links of said modular assemblies and through which pass coaxial transverse orifices, in order to receive between said projections a central link of a modular assembly retained by one of said transverse articulation rods passing through the transverse orifices of said projections and the transverse orifice of said central link.

14. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 2, wherein the last of said articulation rods is formed by a spring bar, the two ends of which are mounted removably in two receptacles of two fastening members integral with a clasp element.

15. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the last of said articulation rods is formed by a spring bar, the two ends of which are mounted removably in two receptacles of two fastening members integral with a clasp element.

16. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 4, wherein the last of said articulation rods is formed by a spring bar, the two ends of which are mounted removably in two receptacles of two fastening members integral with a clasp element.

17. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 5, wherein the last of said articulation rods is formed by a spring bar, the two ends of which are mounted removably in two receptacles of two fastening members integral with a clasp element.

18. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the last of said transverse articulation rods is formed by a rod threaded at one end intended to be screwed into a corresponding thread formed in a fastening member, the other end of this rod being arranged in a transverse orifice of a second fastening member, these two fastening members being integral with a clasp element.

19. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 4, wherein the last of said transverse articulation rods is formed by a rod threaded at one end intended to be screwed into a corresponding thread formed in a fastening member, the other end of this rod being arranged in a transverse orifice of a second fastening member, these two fastening members being integral with a clasp element.

20. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 5, wherein the last of said transverse articulation rods is formed by a rod threaded at one end intended to be screwed into a corresponding thread formed in a fastening member, the other end of this rod being arranged in a transverse orifice of a second fastening member, these two fastening members being integral with a clasp element.

21. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 2, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

22. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 3, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

23. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 4, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

24. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 5, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

25. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 6, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

26. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 7, wherein two of said modular assemblies are arranged mirror-symmetrically with respect to one another about a transverse axis of the strap, with their two transversely aligned links turned toward the ends of the strap, two independent links both being connected to each of the central links of said modular assemblies by means of two of said transverse articulation rods.

27. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 3, wherein one of said modular elements, which is located at one of the ends of a strap portion, said end being intended to be connected to horns of a watch case, terminates in said two transversely aligned links, and wherein an element for connection to said case comprises two parts articulated on one another about a transverse articulation rod, these two parts each comprising transverse passages for the passage of a bar for fastening to said horns when said passages are aligned

with a common axis, said fastening bar serving, furthermore, for locking said two parts about said transverse articulation rod.

28. (New) The strap as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of said modular elements, which is located at one of the ends of a strap portion, said end being intended to be connected to horns of a watch case, terminates in said two transversely aligned links, and wherein an element for connection to said case comprises two parts articulated on one another about a transverse articulation rod, these two parts each comprising transverse passages for the passage of a bar for fastening to said horns when said passages are aligned with a common axis, said fastening bar serving, furthermore, for locking said two parts about said transverse articulation rod.